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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0518  
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 6688  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 1974  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 1508  
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SUBJECT: UNAMID: FRENCH WANT SEPARATE DEMARCHES; MINURCAT  
A CONCERN

REF: STATE 136068

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, 1.4 (b/d  
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¶1. (C) MFA AF DAS-equivalent Helene Le Gal told us on September 28 that France preferred that the U.S., UK, and France carry out separate demarches rather than a joint one regarding contributions by other countries to the UNAMID operation for Darfur (reftel).

¶2. (C) Le Gal said that she had cleared this view within the GOF after we had discussed reftel with her on September 27. She explained that French concerns about MINURCAT, the EU-UN PKO for Chad and C.A.R. (a mission conceived by the French), were a factor. Le Gal noted that France would be asking some of the same countries mentioned in reftel in connection with UNAMID, for contributions to MINURCAT, and therefore wanted to operate separately in requesting support for the two missions. Asked about reported difficulties France seemed to be having in obtaining troop commitments for MINURCAT, Le Gal tacitly acknowledged that others were not making commitments as firmly or as quickly as the GOF would have liked. Troops were still lacking and France was actively seeking additional partners, she said.

¶3. (C) Le Gal indicated that the MFA would instruct its missions in the countries named in reftel to meet with host governments concerning UNAMID but would not ask that they do so in conjunction with U.S. and UK counterparts.

¶4. (C) COMMENT: Although she did not say so directly, Le Gal gave the clear impression that the French did not want to make a joint demarche, with U.S. and UK partners present, stressing the pressing need for contributions to UNAMID, and then have to make a similar demarche, to many of the same interlocutors, emphasizing the importance of MINURCAT. Given the lead role France has taken with MINURCAT, and the corresponding responsibility the French have assumed with respect to that operation, we expect that the French would place more emphasis on MINURCAT than on UNAMID. This is not to suggest that they view UNAMID as less important but rather that they will focus their heavy lifting on MINURCAT, at least until its needs have been substantially met. END COMMENT.

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Stapleton